

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A golf club comprising a hollow golf club head which has a face portion for striking a golf ball, a crown portion connected to the face portion, ~~[[and]] a sole portion connected to the face portion and a side portion connected to the face portion, the crown portion and the sole portion~~, wherein:

a first region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of a total surface area of the crown portion is formed by a first outer shell member in a region of the crown portion which is located along a connecting edge of the crown portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge, and a second region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of the total surface area of the sole portion is formed by a second outer shell member in a region of the sole portion which is located along a connecting edge of the sole portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge of the sole portion, the first outer shell member structured by a carbon fiber reinforced plastic material and the second outer shell member structured by a metal alloy; and

when an product of an elastic modulus of the first outer shell member in a direction in which a striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the first outer shell member in the first region is taken as a first equivalent rigidity and a product of an elastic modulus of the second outer shell member in the direction in which the striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the second outer shell member in the second region is taken as a second equivalent rigidity, a ratio of either the lower of the first

equivalent rigidity and the second equivalent rigidity to the higher is equal to or less than 0.75[[.]],

wherein a side member of the side portion has an edge which is bent to a side of the crown portion to provide an extension portion extending in the crown portion to form a part thereof,

wherein a face member of the face portion has an edge which is bent to a side of the crown portion to provide an extension portion extending in the crown portion to form a part thereof, and

wherein the first outer shell member is joined to the extension portions from an outside of a hollow region formed by the face portion, the crown portion, the side portion and the sole portion.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently amended) A method of designing a hollow golf club head which has a face portion for striking a golf ball, a crown portion connected to the face portion, [[and]] a sole portion connected to the face portion and a side portion connected to the face portion, the crown portion and the sole portion, wherein:

a first region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of the total surface area of the crown portion is formed by a first outer shell member in a region of the crown portion which is located along a connecting edge of the crown portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge; a second region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of the total surface area of the sole portion is formed by a second outer shell member in a region of the sole portion which is located along a connecting edge of the sole portion connecting to the face portion and

within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge of the sole portion; a product of an elastic modulus of the first outer shell member in a direction in which a striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the first outer shell member in the first region is taken as a first equivalent rigidity; and a product of an elastic modulus of the second outer shell member in the direction in which the striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the second outer shell member in the second region is taken as a second equivalent rigidity, the method comprising the steps of:

holding in advance the characteristic data that expresses changes in initial ballistic characteristics of a golf ball caused when either of the first and second equivalent rigidities is changed while the other is kept constant;

using the held characteristic data to set a ratio between the first equivalent rigidity and the second equivalent rigidity in accordance with the initial ballistic characteristics of the golf ball struck by a golfer; and

employing two members that conform to the set ratio as the first and second outer shell members[[.]],

wherein a side member of the side portion has an edge which is bent to a side of the crown portion to provide an extension portion extending in the crown portion to form a part thereof; and

wherein a face member of the face portion has an edge which is bent to a side of the crown portion to provide an extension portion extending in the crown portion to form a part thereof.

4. (Previously presented) The method of designing a hollow golf club head according to claim 3, wherein:

said characteristic data represents each of plural head speeds at which golfers strike golf balls;

 said characteristic data is prepared for each of plural head speeds at which golfers strike golf balls; and

 said ratio is set according to a head speed at which a golfer strikes golf balls.

5. (Previously presented) The method of designing a hollow golf club head according to claim 3, wherein:

 said characteristic data represents each of plural loft angles of golf clubs;

 said characteristic data is prepared for each of plural loft angles; and

 said ratio is set according to a loft angle of the golf clubs.

6. (Previously presented) The method of designing a hollow golf club head according to claim 4, wherein:

 a composite material in which a fiber reinforced plastic material is laminated is used for said first outer shell member and a metal alloy for said second outer shell member; and

 said ratio is established by regulating an orientation angle of the composite material.

7-8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously presented) The golf club according to claim 1, wherein:
 the face portion is structured by a metal alloy.

10. (Currently amended) A golf club comprising a hollow golf club head which has a face portion for striking a golf ball, a crown portion connected to the face portion,

[[and]] a sole portion connected to the face portion and a side portion connected to the face portion, the crown portion and the sole portion, wherein:

a first region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of a total surface area of the crown portion is formed by a first outer shell member in a region of the crown portion which is located along a connecting edge of the crown portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge, and a second region whose surface area constitutes 5% or more of the total surface area of the sole portion is formed by a second outer shell member in a region of the sole portion which is located along a connecting edge of the sole portion connecting to the face portion and within a distance of 50 mm from the connecting edge of the sole portion, the face portion being structured by a metal alloy; and

when a product of an elastic modulus of the first outer shell member in a direction in which a striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the first outer shell member in the first region is taken as a first equivalent rigidity and a product of an elastic modulus of the second outer shell member in the direction in which the striking surface is oriented and a thickness of the second outer shell member in the second region is taken as a second equivalent rigidity, a ratio of either the lower of the first equivalent rigidity and the second equivalent rigidity to the higher is equal to or less than 0.75[[.]].

wherein a side member of the side portion has an edge which is bent to a side of the crown portion to provide an extension portion extending in the crown portion to form a part thereof,

wherein a face member of the face portion has an edge which is bent to a side of the crown portion to provide an extension portion extending in the crown portion to form a part thereof, and

wherein the first outer shell member is joined to the extension portions from an outside of a hollow region formed by the face portion, the crown portion, the side portion and the sole portion.

11. (Previously presented) The golf club according to claim 10, wherein: the golf club is included among a series of golf clubs adapted for different head speeds; and a composite material in which a fiber reinforced plastic is laminated is used for either or both of the first and second outer shell members, having an orientation angle of fibers thereof regulated according to a head speed so as to establish said ratio.

12. (Previously presented) The golf club according to claim 10, wherein: the golf club is included among a series of golf clubs with different loft angles; and a composite material in which a fiber reinforced plastic is laminated is used for either or both of the first and second outer shell members, having an orientation angle of fibers thereof regulated according to a loft angle of the golf club so as to establish said ratio.

13. (New) The golf club according to claim 1, wherein: the second equivalent rigidity is lower than the first equivalent rigidity.

14. (New) The method of designing a hollow golf club head according to claim 3, wherein:

the first outer shell member is joined to the extension portions from an outside of a hollow region formed by the face portion, the crown portion, the side portion and the sole portion.

15. (New) The method of designing a hollow golf club head according to claim 3, wherein:

the second equivalent rigidity is lower than the first equivalent rigidity.

16. (New) The golf club according to claim 10, wherein:

the second equivalent rigidity is lower than the first equivalent rigidity.